

The Federal government has just introduced the *Family Caregivers for Children* benefit (formerly the *Parents of Critically Ill Children* benefit) making the funding available to any family member, not just a parent. As well, a new benefit, *Family Caregivers for Adults*, is being introduced December 4th. The following three examples from the Canada.ca website illustrate how this new fund can be used.

**Employment Insurance caregiving benefits**

**FOR CRITICALLY ILL OR INJURED FAMILY MEMBERS**

- Family Caregiver benefit for CHILDREN\***  
Formerly known as the Parents of Critically Ill Children benefit  
Maximum of 35 weeks
- Family Caregiver benefit for ADULTS\***  
Maximum of 15 weeks

**FOR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE FACING SIGNIFICANT RISK OF DEATH**

- Compassionate Care benefits\***  
Maximum of 26 weeks

**MAY BE COMBINED WITH**

\* May be shared among any eligible family members.

**Example 1** - Emilio has a stroke.

He lives alone and needs care during his recovery. Emilio’s medical doctor completes the medical certificate stating that he is critically ill and requires the care or support of a family member. Emilio’s son Hector takes time off work to care for his father and ensure he gets to his medical appointments.

Hector is eligible for EI and earns \$30,000 per year. He takes 16 weeks off work to care for his father. After the one-week waiting period, Hector can receive the Family Caregiver Benefit for Adults for up to 15 weeks. He will receive \$317 per week for a total of \$4,755.

**Example 2**- Julie is in a car accident and suffers life-threatening injuries. She undergoes surgery and is admitted to the intensive care unit of the hospital. Julie’s medical doctor completes the medical certificate stating that she is critically ill and requires the care or support of a family member. Doctors have told her family that they expect her to recover within four months. Julie’s husband Patrick and her sister Sylvie plan to take time off work to support her while she is in the hospital and when she recovers at home. Patrick and Sylvie are both eligible for EI and can share the 15-week Family Caregiver Benefit for Adults.

Patrick earns \$50,000 per year and takes 4 weeks off work immediately after the accident. After the one-week waiting period, Patrick receives the Family Caregiver Benefit for Adults of \$529 per week for 3 weeks, for a total of \$1,587. Sylvie applies to receive 12 weeks of the Family Caregiver Benefit for Adults without a waiting period. She earns \$40,000 per year, so her weekly benefit is \$423. In total, she receives \$5,076 over 12 weeks.

**Example 3** - Paul’s partner David has been diagnosed with cancer. Paul takes times off work to care for him at home. David’s medical doctor completes the medical certificate stating that Paul is critically ill and requires the care or support of a family member. Paul is eligible for EI and applies for the Family Caregiver Benefit for Adults. He earns \$60,000 per year. He receives the maximum EI benefit of \$543 per week for 15 weeks. In total, Paul receives \$8,145.

Unfortunately, David’s treatments are not successful and doctors expect he will not live more than six months. Paul gets the medical certificate required to claim 26 weeks of Compassionate Care benefits. He receives \$543 per week in Compassionate Care benefits. In total, he receives \$14,118 over 26 weeks. Altogether, Paul receives \$22,263 from Family Caregiver Benefit for Adults and Compassionate Care benefits.

For further information on these programs, please contact your local Service Canada office or go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/campaigns/ei-improvements/adult-care.html>